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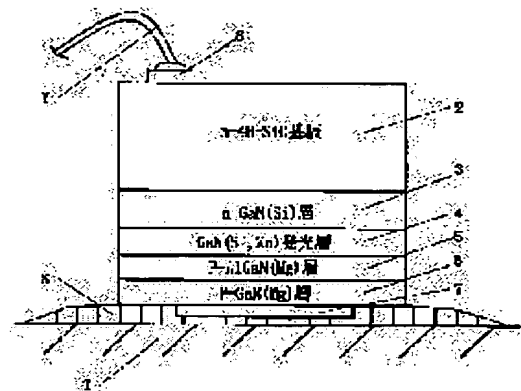
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(54) SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT-EMITTING ELEMENT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To dispense with a P-type transparent electrode in which a high controllability is required.

SOLUTION: This element is a semiconductor light-emitting element constituted into a structure, wherein an n-type GaN semiconductor layer 3, a GaN semiconductor luminous layer 4, a P-type AlGaIn semiconductor layer 5 and a P-type GaN semiconductor layer 6 are laminated on a substrate 2 consisting of an N-type 4H or 2H-SiC film. At the same time, an N-type electrode 8 and a P-type electrode 7 are respectively formed on the substrate 2 and the layer 6. Here, the electrode 8 is arranged at the corner of the substrate 2.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The semi-conductor light emitting device which is a semi-conductor light emitting device which carried out the laminating of the semi-conductor layer containing the semi-conductor luminous layer of a GaN system on the substrate made from a semi-conductor which consists of SiC, and is characterized by having avoided the center of a SiC substrate and having arranged the opaque pad electrode linked to this SiC substrate to the corner while using transparence and a substrate with conductivity to luminescence wavelength as said SiC substrate.

[Claim 2] The semi-conductor light emitting device which is a semi-conductor light emitting device which formed the electrode of n mold in said SiC substrate, and formed p mold electrode in said p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer on the substrate which consists of SiC of 4H of n mold, or 2H while carrying out the laminating of an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer, a GaN semi-conductor luminous layer, and the p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer, and is characterized by having arranged said n electrode in a corner of a substrate.

[Claim 3] While carrying out the laminating of an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer, an InGaN semi-conductor luminous layer, and the p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer on the substrate which consists of SiC of 6H and 4H of n mold, or 2H The semi-conductor light emitting device which is a semi-conductor light emitting device which formed the electrode of n mold in said SiC substrate, and formed p mold electrode in said p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer, and is characterized by having arranged said n electrode in a corner of a substrate.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to a semi-conductor light emitting device.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] the ingredient of a GaN (gallium nitride) system and a SiC (silicon carbide) system is observed as an ingredient suitable for blue luminescence -- having -- current -- various techniques are proposed.

[0003] For example, in JP,8-64910,A, as shown in drawing 5 (A), the laminating of the n mold SiC cladding layer 11, the InGa_N barrier layer 12, and the p mold SiC cladding layer 13 is carried out to order on the n mold SiC substrate 10, and the semi-conductor light emitting device (the following, the former structure A) in which blue luminescence in which the aluminum electrode 14 was formed in this center of the p mold SiC cladding layer 13 upper part, and the nickel electrode 15 was formed in the center of the n mold SiC substrate 10 lower part is possible is proposed.

[0004] Moreover, as shown in this official report as the conventional technique at drawing 5 (B) On the sapphire substrate 20, the laminating of the AlGa_N buffer layer 21, the n mold Ga_N layer 22, the n mold AlGa_N cladding layer 23, the InGa_N barrier layer 24, the p mold AlGa_N cladding layer 25, the p mold Ga_N layer 26, and the p mold transparent electrode 27 is carried out to order. Furthermore, the semi-conductor light emitting device (the following, the former structure B) in which blue luminescence in which n mold electrode 29 was formed for p mold electrode 28 on this p mold transparent electrode 27 in a part of n mold Ga_N layer 22 is possible is also indicated.

[0005] Conventionally, in order to grow up the p mold SiC cladding layer 13 of elevated-temperature growth (1400-1500 degrees C) into the upper part of the InGa_N barrier layer 12 of low dental-curing length (about 800 degrees C) in Structure A, the technical problem of the component property that N in the InGa_N barrier layer 12 breaks away, are easy to produce a lattice defect, and a good crystal is not obtained falling during growth of the p mold SiC cladding layer 13 occurs.

[0006] Moreover, conventionally, in Structure B, since the sapphire which is an insulator is used for the substrate 20, a flow cannot be aimed at in the vertical direction of a component through a substrate 20. Moreover, since a lattice constant carries out the laminating of the layer of the Ga_N system whose lattice constant is 3.11-3.16Å on the sapphire substrate 20 which is 4.76Å, the technical problem that it is easy to produce a crystal defect in the layer of a Ga_N system by grid mismatching occurs.

[0007] In consideration of such a point, like the semi-conductor light emitting device shown in drawing 5 (C) The lattice constant of a Ga_N system semi-conductor and SiC of n mold which becomes and has a near lattice constant are used as a substrate 30. Besides, the layer 31 of a Ga_N system, i.e., the n mold Ga_N layer of Si addition, Si, the Ga_N luminous layer 32 of Zn addition, the p mold AlGa_N semi-conductor (clad) layer 33 of Mg addition, and the p mold Ga_N semi-conductor (contact) layer 34 of Mg addition are formed. It is possible by forming p mold electrode 35 transparent on it and p mold pad electrode 36 to consider as the structure (the following, structure C) which cancels the trouble of Structures A and B conventionally.

[0008]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] however, the structure C -- also setting -- the resistivity of the p mold AlGa_N semi-conductor (clad) layer 33 and the p mold Ga_N semi-conductor (contact) layer 34 of Mg addition -- several ohms and cm -- high -- enough -- low -- since p type layer [****] is not obtained, it is necessary to form separately the transparent electrode 35 for planning breadth of a current, and the technical problem that a production process is complicated occurs. Since this transparent

electrode 35 needs to form membranes to extent which can penetrate light thinly and generally needs to form the metallic material of protection-from-light nature in it, it has the technical problem that a high controllability is needed for the process for creating a transparent electrode 35.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention was made in consideration of the above-mentioned point, and the fundamental description is to have avoided the center of a SiC substrate, have arranged to the corner the opaque pad electrode connected to this SiC substrate using transparence and a SiC substrate with conductivity to luminescence wavelength, and have constituted as a substrate, in the semi-conductor light emitting device which carried out the laminating of the semi-conductor layer which contains the semi-conductor luminous layer of a GaN system on a substrate.

[0010] Since transparence and a SiC substrate with conductivity are used to luminescence wavelength as a substrate, the transparent electrode needed conventionally can be made unnecessary by arranging so that a substrate may be located upwards, and taking out light through this substrate. A cost cut can be aimed at in the cutback of production processes, and a list, being able to use a transparent electrode as unnecessary.

[0011]

[Embodiment of the Invention] It explains taking the case of the semi-conductor light emitting device (light emitting diode) 1 suitable for blue luminescence which shows the example of this invention below to drawing 1.

[0012] This semi-conductor light emitting device 1 on the substrate 2 which consists of an n mold SiC semi-conductor the compound semiconductor layer of a GaN system -- that is As the n mold GaN semi-conductor layer 3 which doped Si as an impurity, and an impurity It has structure which carried out crystal growth of the n mold GaN semi-conductor luminous layer 4 which doped Si and Zn, the p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer 5 which doped Mg as an impurity, and the p mold GaN semi-conductor contact layer 6 which doped Mg as an impurity to order, and carried out the laminating to it. Since the GaN system semi-conductor of a direct transition mold is used for the luminous layer 4, it can enlarge luminous efficiency about 100 times compared with the case where can make luminous efficiency high, for example, SiC of a indirect transition mold is used for a luminous layer.

[0013] The p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer 5 and the p mold GaN semi-conductor contact layer 6 may carry out predetermined time annealing processing at the temperature around 800 degrees C after said crystal growth if needed, in order to attain the low resistance-ization, since resistivity is large. Although resistivity can be reduced in several ohms and cm by such processing, this value is about 10 times large compared with the resistivity of the SiC layer of p mold, and it is difficult to obtain current breadth like [in the case of the SiC layer of p mold].

[0014] Although it is common to use 6 H-SiC with the easiest manufacture as for a SiC substrate, since these 6 H-SiC is 428nm and its optical absorption edge of that corresponds with the emission peak wavelength (425-430nm) of a luminous layer 4 as shown in drawing 4, it becomes opaque to luminescence wavelength. Then, as a SiC substrate 2, an optical absorption edge is shorter than the emission peak wavelength of a luminous layer 4, and transparent 4 H-SiC or 2 H-SiC are used to luminescence wavelength. Here, as a SiC substrate 2, it is more desirable than 2 H-SiC to use 4 H-SiC with easy manufacture.

[0015] p mold electrode 7 which serves as Si from aluminum and Au is formed in the center section, and n mold electrode 8 for pads which consists of nickel and Au is formed in the SiC substrate 2 at the p mold GaN semi-conductor (contact) layer 6. Since vertical reversal is carried out and the SiC substrate 2 is used so that it may be located upwards as this light emitting device 1 is shown in drawing 2, p mold electrode 7 arranged in the component clamp face T is formed in a comparatively big area. Since thickness is thick and opaque, n mold electrode 8 for pads by which wire bond connection is made avoided the center of a substrate 2, and arranges it to the corner of a substrate 2 so that the light which carries out outgoing radiation from a substrate 2 may not be interrupted.

[0016] As the component 1 constituted as mentioned above is shown in drawing 2, vertical reversal is carried out so that a substrate 2 may be located in an upside, and p mold electrode 7 is placed in a fixed position by the clamp face T of a lead electrode etc. with electroconductive glue S etc. And wire bond connection of the thin lines Y, such as gold, is made at n mold electrode 8 for pads located in an upside. Although a component 1 is assembled as luminescence equipment as shown in drawing 2, it can raise optical ejection effectiveness by covering a perimeter with transparence resin etc. on the occasion of this assembly.

[0017] If an electrical potential difference is impressed and a predetermined current is passed from p mold

electrode 7 to the component 1 interior towards n mold electrode 8, in a luminous layer 4, the light whose emission peak wavelength is 425-430nm will occur. Outgoing radiation of this light is carried out outside to luminescence wavelength from the perimeter of the transparent n mold GaN semi-conductor layer 3 and the luminous layer 4 containing the SiC substrate 2. Here, since low resistance-ization forms p mold electrode 7 of a large area in the difficult p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer 6, it can consider as the configuration to which driver voltage can be reduced and luminescence area can also be expanded. Moreover, since the resistance of a p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer is fully smaller than SiC of p mold from the first, even if a current arranges to a corner breadth and the electrode which becomes empty, the problem of the maldistribution for a light-emitting part does not produce the SiC substrate 2 of n mold. Then, n mold electrode 8 which a current connects to breadth or the cone n mold SiC substrate 2 has been arranged to the corner of the SiC substrate 2, and has prevented protection from light by n mold electrode 8 of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out outside through the SiC substrate 2. [0018] Thus, since the SiC substrate 2 which is transparent and has conductivity is arranged to the up side and the electrode 8 for pads was formed in the corner of this SiC substrate 2 to luminescence wavelength, it can ** taking out light efficiently through the SiC substrate 2. Therefore, it becomes unnecessary for low resistance-ization to use a transparent electrode like before as a p mold electrode 7 linked to p type layer of a difficult GaN system, and it can simplify a production process in the configuration of p mold electrode, and a list.

[0019] In addition, in order to prevent the short circuit of electroconductive glue S depended for creeping up, as shown in drawing 3, the insulating coats 9, such as silicon oxide (SiO₂) and silicon nitride (SiNX), can also be formed so that the exposed surface of some substrates 2 and the layers 3-6 on it may be covered.

[0020] Moreover, although the above-mentioned example illustrated the case where the n mold GaN semiconductor material which doped Si and Zn as an impurity was used as a luminous layer 4, InGaN semiconductor materials, such as an InGaN semi-conductor layer which doped Si and Zn as an impurity, an InGaN semi-conductor layer of undoping, or a multiplex quantum well layer of InGaN from which In presentation ratio differs, can also be used for this invention as a luminous layer 4. in such a case, luminescence wavelength -- GaN -- comparing -- a long wave -- since it becomes merit (440nm or more) -- luminescence wavelength -- receiving -- as a transparent substrate -- the SiC substrate of 4H of n mold, or 2H -- in addition, 6HSiC substrate of n mold can also be used.

[0021] moreover, the above-mentioned example as an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer located in one side of the upper and lower sides of GaN or the InGaN semi-conductor luminous layer 4 As a p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer located in another side of the upper and lower sides of a luminous layer 4 using the Si dope n mold GaN semi-conductor layer 3, although the case where the Mg dope p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer 5 and the Mg dope p mold GaN contact layer 6 were used was taken for the example, this invention is not limited to this.

[0022] For example, the undoping n mold GaN semi-conductor layer (n mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer) which does not add an impurity, or the n mold GaN semi-conductor layer (n mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer) which added donor impurities other than Si, such as Se, germanium, and Sn, as an impurity can be used as other examples of an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer. Moreover, an n mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer can also be made into the structure which intervened between said n mold GaN semi-conductor layers and luminous layers 4. Only an n mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer can also be made into the structure which intervened between said n mold SiC substrates 2 and luminous layers 4 further again.

[0023] Moreover, the p mold GaN semi-conductor layer (p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer) which added acceptor impurity, such as Zn other than Mg, as an impurity can be used as other examples of a p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer. Moreover, the p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer which intervened between the luminous layer 4 and the p mold GaN semi-conductor layer can be omitted, and it can consider as the structure which adjoined the luminous layer 4 and prepared the p mold GaN semi-conductor layer. It can also consider as the structure which prepared only the p mold AlGaIn semi-conductor layer further again as a p mold GaN system semi-conductor layer which adjoins a luminous layer 4.

[0024] Moreover, although the case where an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer was directly formed in the n mold SiC substrate 2 was illustrated in the above-mentioned example, the buffer layer of the GaN system which consists of an AlGaIn semi-conductor layer for preventing both grid mismatching etc. can be formed between the n mold SiC substrate 2 and an n mold GaN system semi-conductor layer.

[0025]

[Effect of the Invention] Since transparence and a SiC substrate with conductivity are used for the semi-

conductor light emitting device of this invention to luminescence wavelength as a substrate, it can make unnecessary the transparent electrode needed conventionally by arranging so that a substrate may be located upwards, and making light penetrate through this substrate. A cost cut can be aimed at in the cutback of production processes, and a list, being able to use a transparent electrode as unnecessary. Moreover, it can reduce the optical absorption by the SiC substrate, and can offer a bright light emitting device while it keeps luminous efficiency very high compared with the case where SiC is used for a luminous layer, since the semi-conductor light emitting device of this invention uses the semiconductor material of GaN of a direct transition mold, or InGaN for the luminous layer.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the sectional view having shown the structure of the semi-conductor light emitting device in one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the important section sectional view of luminescence equipment equipped with the semi-conductor light emitting device of this example.

[Drawing 3] It is the important section sectional view of luminescence equipment equipped with the semi-conductor light emitting device of other examples.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing having shown the physical property value of the ingredient of the semi-conductor light emitting device in this example.

[Drawing 5] The sectional view having shown the structure of the semi-conductor light emitting device according [(A) and (B)] to the conventional technique and (C) are the sectional views showing the amelioration structure of this drawing (A) and (B).

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Semi-conductor Light Emitting Device
- 2 N Mold SiC Substrate
- 3 N Mold GaN Semi-conductor Layer
- 4 GaN Semi-conductor Luminous Layer
- 5 P Mold AlGaIn Semi-conductor (Clad) Layer
- 6 P Mold GaN Semi-conductor (Contact) Layer
- 7 P Mold Electrode
- 8 N Mold Electrode

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 SiCからなる半導体製の基板の上にGaN系の半導体発光層を含む半導体層を積層した半導体発光素子であって、前記SiC基板として、発光波長に対して透明、かつ導電性のある基板を用いるとともに、このSiC基板に接続する不透明なパッド電極をSiC基板の中央を避けて隅部に配置したことを特徴とする半導体発光素子。

【請求項2】 n型の4Hもしくは2HのSiCからなる基板の上に、n型GaN系半導体層、GaN半導体発光層、p型GaN系半導体層を積層するとともに、前記SiC基板にn型の電極を形成し、前記p型GaN系半導体層にp型電極を形成した半導体発光素子であって、前記n電極を基板の隅に配置したことを特徴とする半導体発光素子。

【請求項3】 n型の6H、4Hもしくは2HのSiCからなる基板の上に、n型GaN系半導体層、InGaN半導体発光層、p型GaN系半導体層を積層するとともに、前記SiC基板にn型の電極を形成し、前記p型GaN系半導体層にp型電極を形成した半導体発光素子であって、前記n電極を基板の隅に配置したことを特徴とする半導体発光素子。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は半導体発光素子に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】GaN（窒化ガリウム）系、SiC（炭化ケイ素）系の材料は、青色発光に適した材料として注目され、現在様々な技術が提案されている。

【0003】例えば特開平8-64910号公報では、図5（A）に示すように、n型SiC基板10上にn型SiCクラッド層11、InGaN活性層12、p型SiCクラッド層13が順に積層され、このp型SiCクラッド層13上部中央にAl電極14が、n型SiC基板10下部中央にN電極15が形成された青色発光が可能な半導体発光素子（以下、従来構造A）が提案されている。

【0004】また、同公報には、その従来技術として、図5（B）に示すように、サファイヤ基板20上に、AlGaNバッファ層21、n型GaN層22、n型AlGaNクラッド層23、InGaN活性層24、p型AlGaNクラッド層25、p型GaN層26、p型透明電極27が順に積層され、更にこのp型透明電極27の上にp型電極28が、n型GaN層22の一部にn型電極29が形成された青色発光が可能な半導体発光素子（以下、従来構造B）も開示されている。

【0005】従来構造Aにおいては、低温成長（約800℃）のInGaN活性層12の上部に高温成長（1400～1500℃）のp型SiCクラッド層13を成長

させるため、p型SiCクラッド層13の成長中にInGaN活性層12中のNが離脱して格子欠陥を生じやすく、良好な結晶が得られない、素子特性が低下するなどの課題がある。

【0006】また、従来構造Bにおいては、基板20に絶縁体であるサファイヤを用いているので、基板20を通して素子の上下方向に導通を図ることができない。また、格子定数が3.11～3.16ÅのGaN系の層を、格子定数が4.76Åのサファイヤ基板20上に積層するので、格子不整合によってGaN系の層に結晶欠陥が生じやすいという課題がある。

【0007】このような点を考慮し、図5（C）に示す半導体発光素子のように、GaN系半導体の格子定数とかなり近い格子定数を有するn型のSiCを基板30として用い、この上にGaN系の層、すなわちSi添加のn型GaN層31、Si、Zn添加のGaN発光層32、Mg添加のp型AlGaN半導体（クラッド）層33、Mg添加のp型GaN半導体（コンタクト）層34を形成し、その上に透明なp型電極35とp型パッド電極36を形成することによって従来構造A、Bの問題点を解消する構造（以下、構造C）とすることが考えられる。

【0008】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、構造Cにおいても、p型AlGaN半導体（クラッド）層33、Mg添加のp型GaN半導体（コンタクト）層34の比抵抗値が数オーム・cmと高く、十分低抵抗なp型層が得られないため、電流の広がりを図るための透明電極35を別途設ける必要があり、製造工程が複雑化するという課題がある。この透明電極35は一般に、遮光性の金属材料を光を透過できる程度に薄く成膜して形成する必要があるため、透明電極35を作成するための工程に高い制御性が必要になるという課題がある。

【0009】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は上記の点を考慮してなされたもので、基本的な特徴は、基板上にGaN系の半導体発光層を含む半導体層を積層した半導体発光素子において、基板として発光波長に対して透明、かつ導電性のあるSiC基板を用い、このSiC基板に接続する不透明なパッド電極をSiC基板の中央を避けて隅部に配置して構成したことにある。

【0010】基板として発光波長に対して透明、かつ導電性のあるSiC基板を用いるので、基板が上に位置するように配置してこの基板を通して光を取り出すことにより、従来必要としていた透明電極を不要とすることができる。透明電極を不要として製造工程の削減、並びにコストダウンを図ることができる。

【0011】

【発明の実施の形態】以下本発明の実施例を、図1に示す青色発光に適した半導体発光素子（発光ダイオード）

1を例にとって説明する。

【0012】この半導体発光素子1は、n型SiC半導体からなる基板2の上に、GaN系の化合物半導体層、すなわち、不純物としてSiをドーブしたn型GaN半導体層3、不純物としてSi、Znをドーブしたn型GaN半導体発光層4、不純物としてMgをドーブしたp型AlGaN半導体層5、不純物としてMgをドーブしたp型GaN半導体コンタクト層6を順に結晶成長して積層した構造となっている。発光層4は、直接遷移型のGaN系半導体を用いているので、発光効率を高くすることができ、例えば発光層に間接遷移型のSiCを用いる場合に比べて、発光効率を100倍程度大きくすることができる。

【0013】p型AlGaN半導体層5、p型GaN半導体コンタクト層6は、比抵抗値が大きいため、その低抵抗化を図るために、必要に応じて前記結晶成長後に800度C前後の温度で所定時間アニーリング処理してもよい。このような処理によって比抵抗値を数オーム・cmに低下させることができるが、この値は、例えばp型のSiC層の比抵抗値に比べて10倍程度も大きく、p型のSiC層の場合のような電流広がりを得ることは困難である。

【0014】SiC基板は、製造が最も容易な6H-SiCを用いるのが一般的であるが、図4に示すように、この6H-SiCは、その光吸収端が428nmであり、発光層4の発光ピーク波長(425~430nm)と一致するので、発光波長に対して不透明となる。そこで、SiC基板2としては、光吸収端が発光層4の発光ピーク波長より短く、発光波長に対して透明な4H-SiC、あるいは2H-SiCを用いている。ここで、SiC基板2としては、2H-SiCよりも製造が容易な4H-SiCを用いるのが好ましい。

【0015】p型GaN半導体(コンタクト)層6には、その中央部にSiとAlとAuからなるp型電極7を形成し、SiC基板2には、NiとAuからなるパッド用のn型電極8を形成している。この発光素子1は、図2に示すように、SiC基板2が上に位置するように上下反転して用いられるため、素子取付面Tに配置されるp型電極7は、比較的大きな面積に形成されている。ワイヤボンダ接続されるパッド用のn型電極8は、厚みが厚くて不透明であるので、基板2から出射する光を遮らないように、基板2の中央を避けて基板2の隅部に配置している。

【0016】上記のように構成した素子1は、図2に示すように、基板2が上側に位置するように上下反転され、p型電極7が導電性接着剤S等によってリード電極等の取付面Tに固定配置される。そして、上側に位置するパッド用のn型電極8に、金などの細線Yがワイヤボンダ接続される。素子1は、発光装置として、図2に示すように組み立てられるが、この組立てに際して、透明

樹脂等によって周囲を被うことにより、光取り出し効率を高めることができる。

【0017】電圧を印加してp型電極7からn型電極8に向けて素子1内部に所定の電流を流すと、発光層4において発光ピーク波長が425~430nmの光が発生する。この光は、発光波長に対して透明なn型GaN半導体層3、SiC基板2を含む発光層4の周囲から外部に出射される。ここで、低抵抗化が困難なp型GaN系半導体層6に大面積のp型電極7を形成しているの

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で、駆動電圧を低減でき、また発光面積も拡大できる構成とすることができる。また、n型のSiC基板2は、その抵抗値がp型GaN系半導体層はもとより、p型のSiCよりも十分に小さいので、電流が広がりやすく、電極を隅部に配置しても発光部分の偏在という問題が生じない。そこで、電流が広がりやすいn型SiC基板2に接続するn型電極8は、SiC基板2の隅部に配置し、SiC基板2を介して外部に出射される光のn型電極8による遮光を防止している。

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【0018】このように、発光波長に対して透明であり、導電性を有するSiC基板2を上側に配置し、このSiC基板2の隅にパッド用の電極8を設けたので、SiC基板2を通して光を効率的に取出すことができる。そのため、低抵抗化が困難なGaN系のp型層に接続するp型電極7として、従来のように透明な電極を用いる必要がなくなり、p型電極の構成、並びに製造工程を簡素化することができる。

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【0019】尚、導電性接着剤Sのはい上がりによる短絡を防止するために、図3に示すように、基板2の一部とその上の層3~6の露出面を覆うように、酸化シリコン(SiO₂)や窒化シリコン(SiN_x)等の絶縁性の被膜9を形成することもできる。

【0020】また、上記実施例は発光層4として、Si、Znを不純物としてドーブしたn型GaN半導体材料を用いる場合を例示したが、本発明は、発光層4として、例えば、Si、Znを不純物としてドーブしたInGaN半導体層、アンドーブのInGaN半導体層、あるいはIn組成比が異なるInGaNの多重量子井戸層等の、InGaN半導体材料を用いることもできる。このような場合、発光波長がGaNに比べて長波長(440nm以上)となるので、発光波長に対して透明な基板として、n型の4Hもしくは2HのSiC基板に加えて、n型の6H-SiC基板を用いることもできる。

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【0021】また、上記実施例は、GaNもしくはInGaN半導体発光層4の上下の一方に位置するn型GaN系半導体層として、Siドーブn型GaN半導体層3を用い、発光層4の上下の他方に位置するp型GaN系半導体層として、Mgドーブp型AlGaN半導体層5、Mgドーブp型GaNコンタクト層6を用いる場合を例に取ったが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではない。

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【0022】例えば、 n 型Ga N 系半導体層の他の例として、不純物を加えないアンドープ n 型Ga N 半導体層(n 型AlGa N 半導体層)、あるいは、不純物としてSi以外のSe、Ge、Sn等のドナー不純物を加えた n 型Ga N 半導体層(n 型AlGa N 半導体層)を用いることができる。また、前記 n 型Ga N 半導体層と発光層4の間に、 n 型AlGa N 半導体層を介在した構造とすることもできる。さらにまた、前記 n 型Si C 基板2と発光層4の間に、 n 型AlGa N 半導体層のみを介在した構造とすることもできる。

【0023】また、 p 型Ga N 系半導体層の他の例として、不純物としてMg以外のZn等のアクセプタ不純物を加えた p 型Ga N 半導体層(p 型AlGa N 半導体層)を用いることができる。また、発光層4と p 型Ga N 半導体層の間に介在していた p 型AlGa N 半導体層を省略し、発光層4に隣接して p 型Ga N 半導体層を設けた構造とすることもできる。さらにまた、発光層4に隣接する p 型Ga N 系半導体層として、 p 型AlGa N 半導体層のみを設けた構造とすることもできる。

【0024】また、上記実施例では、 n 型Si C 基板2に直接 n 型Ga N 系半導体層を形成する場合を例示したが、 n 型Si C 基板2と n 型Ga N 系半導体層の間に、両者の格子不整合を防止するためのAlGa N 半導体層等からなるGa N 系のバッファ層を形成することができる。

【0025】

【発明の効果】本発明の半導体発光素子は、基板として発光波長に対して透明、かつ導電性のあるSi C 基板を用いるので、基板が上に位置するように配置してこの基板を通して光を透過させることにより、従来必要として*

いた透明電極を不要とすることができる。透明電極を不要として製造工程の削減、並びにコストダウンを図ることができる。また、本発明の半導体発光素子は、発光層に直接遷移型のGa N あるいはInGa N の半導体材料を用いているので、Si C を発光層に用いる場合に比べて発光効率を極めて高く保つとともに、Si C 基板による光吸収を低減して明るい発光素子を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

10 【図1】本発明の一実施例における半導体発光素子の構造を示した断面図である。

【図2】同実施例の半導体発光素子を備える発光装置の要部断面図である。

【図3】他の実施例の半導体発光素子を備える発光装置の要部断面図である。

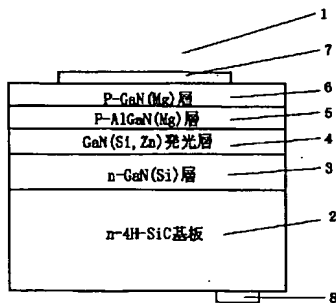
【図4】同実施例における半導体発光素子の材料の物性定数を示した図である。

【図5】(A)(B)は、従来技術による半導体発光素子の構造を示した断面図、(C)は同図(A)(B)の改良構造を示す断面図である。

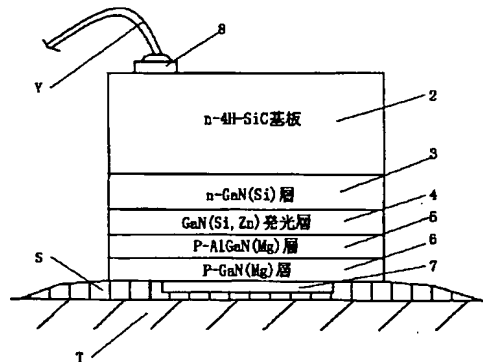
【符号の説明】

- 1 半導体発光素子
- 2 n 型Si C 基板
- 3 n 型Ga N 半導体層
- 4 Ga N 半導体発光層
- 5 p 型AlGa N 半導体(クラッド)層
- 6 p 型Ga N 半導体(コンタクト)層
- 7 p 型電極
- 8 n 型電極

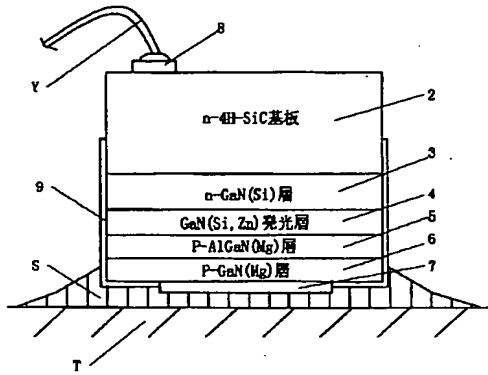
【図1】



【図2】



【図3】



【図4】

結晶材料	6H-SiC	4H-SiC	2H-SiC
バンドギャップ(eV)	2.9	3.2	3.3
光吸収率(mm)	428	388	376

〈GaN(Si, Zn) 発光層のピーク波長 : 425~430nm〉

【図5】

